

Official Directory

TERRITORIAL.

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George Curry... Governor of New Mexico
J. W. Reynolds... Secretary
Wm. J. Mills... Chief Justice
S. B. Davis... District Atty
Secundino Romero... District Court Clerk

COUNTY.

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E. H. Blernbaum... Representative
E. E. Studley... Representative
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Juan Navarro... Sheriff
Juan B. Martinez... Sheriff
Chas. U. Strong... Treasurer and Collector
Albino Martinez... Assessor
Ricardo Martinez... Superintendent of Schools
Alex S. Bushkevitz... Surveyor
Juan de Mata Mares... Board of
Damacio Taroya... County
Geo. V. Santistevan... Commissioners

PRECINCT.

Guad Garcia... Justice of the Peace
Wm. A. Brumage... Deputy Sheriff
BOARD OF EDUCATION.
Alex S. Bushkevitz... Chairman
Herman Goodman... Clerk
Lucas Vigil... Member

WEALTH.

The assessment of 1907 gives the taxable wealth of Mora county as \$1,175,823, an increase of \$9,145 over the previous year. The census of 1906 gives the value of agricultural wealth of the county as \$2,531,000, but the real wealth of the county undoubtedly approximates \$5,000,000. During the past fiscal year 100,000 acres were settled upon by homesteaders, under the Federal and land laws.

Mora is one of the few counties in the Territory where the area appropriated exceeds the area of public lands. The area still subject to entry under the Federal land laws is 760,000 acres, while that appropriated is 830,000 acres. The agricultural lands of Mora county are valued on the assessor's books at \$225,000 and the grazing lands at \$341,000, but the census of 1900 shows that they are worth at least six times as much.

CLIMATE.

Like the rest of New Mexico, Mora county enjoys a peerless climate that is a specific for lung and throat troubles. Its high altitude, the purity of its atmosphere, the grandeur of its scenery, its pines, spruce, cedar, and pinon forests make it an ideal section for homes and a health-seeker's paradise. The annual rainfall is slight and occurs mostly in the summer months. There are no extremes in temperature either in summer or winter, the winters being mild and sunshiny and the summers cool, and even cold at night in the mountainous sections. There is good fishing and hunting in the country; roads are good and accommodations for tourists and health seekers are plain but substantial and comfortable.

RAILROADS.

Mora county is crossed from north to south by the great Santa Fe Railway. The mileage is little over 40 miles. A railroad from Las Vegas to Mora has been surveyed, and an extension from Mora to Taos is contemplated. Mora county needs more railroads for its development and would give heavy tonnage to such. The building of railroads would also lead to the establishment of many industries, for which the raw materials can be furnished by the county, for which the fuel and water power are there, and home markets could easily be found.

TIMBER.

Many parts, especially in the mountains, are heavily timbered districts. Steps are being taken to protect some of the timber sections, especially on the Pecos Forest Reserve. This does not prohibit the cutting of timber, but merely regulates it. Seven million feet of lumber are annually shipped out of the county. From 25 to 50 wagon loads of ties and telegraph poles are daily taken to the railroad.

MINING.

Mora is not a mining county, but there are indications in plenty of mineral wealth to that of any section of the Rocky mountains. Many prospects have been located and some of them show considerable development. The indications of copper are especially promising. Extensive work is being done in the Rociada and Coyote mining districts, as well as in the northern part of the Pecos river forest reserve. The Rociada Gold and Copper Company is down 200 feet, and has a 6 to 8 foot vein of copper, assaying from 10 to 20 per cent, in addition to the gold, silver, and lead. There are many other good prospects in the same vicinity, some having ore running as high as thirty-five per cent, in copper. The Santa Barbara King mine, near Mora, has had assays of from \$60 to \$70 per ton. There is a small smelter at Rociada. El Oro gravel was formerly worked with the pan, each pan yielding as much as a turkey quill filled with gold dust. In the Coyote mining district several hundred thousand dollars have been expended, but litigation has caused operations to lag. Specimens of ore have been picked up that assayed \$3,260 in gold to the ton, and there is a tradition of a "lost mine" that at one time yielded fabulous sums. This mine is supposed to be located on the Mora grant, and much money has been expended to rediscover it. It is natural to suppose that with mountain formation similar to that of the richest mineral districts in the world, and rich float being picked up in every part of the county, as well as mineral veins apparent on the surface in many localities, that Mora county has a great future as a mineral producer. Although Mora has no coal mines, the coal indications are such that many thousands of tons could be produced annually

with but little labor and investment of capital. Clay for brick-making, red and white sandstone, and limestone exist in large quantities and of commercial quality. Near Wagon Mount deposits of alum are reported.

THE STOCK INDUSTRY.

According to this year's assessment the county has about 15,000 cattle, 78,919 sheep, and 3,000 goats. As a matter of fact these figures should be multiplied at least by two. The wool produced in the county amounts to about 750,000 pounds annually, and the cattle shipped out annually total almost as many as the assessment credits the county with. It has an ideal range and the raising and fattening of beef cattle is one of the principal industries around Wagon Mound, Watrous, and other settlements. The eastern portion is devoted entirely to stock raising. The mesas support numerous flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. This immense stock range is well watered and has good shelter in its breaks and canons. The grass is very nutritious, being black gramma and blue joint, and in most years is cut for hay, yielding as high as two tons to the acre. Fortunes have been made in Mora county by stock raising, and the man who possesses capital, some experience and business ability can invest money to no better purpose than in this industry.

AGRICULTURE.

The county leads in agriculture. Together with Taos county it was the granary of the southwest for many years, and before the advent of the railroads caravans came from far and near to secure wheat and other agricultural products. Even today from 25 to 50 wagons, loaded with agricultural products, are on the road daily from the Mora valley to Las Vegas or to Wagon Mound. Five acres produce 13,665 pounds of oats, or 85 bushels to the acre. Potatoes yield from 3 to 5 tons per acre. Mora county being one of the few parts of the southwest where potatoes are raised successfully. Irrigation is not needed to raise crops.

The principal crops are wheat, oats, alfalfa, corn, barley, rye, potatoes, and vegetables. Horticulture is a very successful pursuit, and the fruit raised here will stand comparison with that raised anywhere in the United States. Its flavor is unsurpassed and in size and color it has no equal. From the Mora and adjoining valleys 15,000 pounds of oats are shipped annually and about 2,000,000 pounds of corn. Enough wheat is raised to supply and keep busy the year around one modern roller mill and six water-power grist mills.

The homeseeker can purchase land already under cultivation at from \$10 to \$40 per acre. Mora county produces sugar beets very rich in saccharine matter and yielding a heavy crop to the acre. The extraordinary purity of these beets and their high per cent of sugar have created a demand for them, and quantities have been shipped to the Colorado beet-sugar factories as an experiment; but, owing to the cost of freight and the difficulty of taking the beets to the railroad, sugar-beet raising is not as profitable as it would be if a sugar factory or two were located nearer to the beet field. Labor is cheap, water power abundant, and fuel easily secured, factors which would contribute much to the success of beet-sugar factories.

The following are the principal agricultural valleys: The Mora and Agua Negra valley, nearly all under cultivation, is twenty-two miles long. In its narrowest place it is 400 yards wide for the length of about 12 miles; the other 10 miles are from 2 to 3 miles wide. The Cebolla valley is 10 miles long and from 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 miles wide. The Guadalupe valley is 5 miles long and 3 miles wide along the Guadalupe, and then runs 10 miles to Lucero, averaging about a quarter of a mile in width. The Llano del Coyote valley is about 3 miles long and 1 mile wide. The La Cueva valley, not including the 100,000 acres of the La Cueva Ranch Company, has an area of about 14,000 acres. The Golondrina valley has an area of 5,000 acres. The Cherry and Watrous valleys produce alfalfa principally, although 30,000 pounds of grain is raised annually, being used mostly in fattening cattle, there being about 20,000 head of cattle in these two valleys. Besides these valleys, which all have irrigation systems, there are the Lower Cebolla, Buena Vista, Carmen, Gascon, and other small valleys that are very productive.

HISTORY.

Mora is the Spanish word for raspberry, the first settlers naming the section thus on account of the abundance of wild raspberries. Up to 1830 the county was the hunting ground of Indian tribes who held undisputed sway. In 1832 the first attempt was made by white men to settle on the present site of Mora, but the settlers were driven off by the Indians and a number of them were slain. However, other attempts were made, and in 1840 the settler made a brave stand against the Indians and from that day the white men held the upper hand. The Mora valley was at that time a dense forest and great hardship was endured in clearing the lands and building homes. A white man would be killed at his own door by marauding Indians, and it was not uncommon for women and children to be carried into captivity. The Mexican government furnished no protection, and the settlers had but rude weapons with which to repel the attacks of the savage hordes. The government, however, gave a large grant of land to seventy-six of these sturdy men. In 1847, during the war with Mexico, these people were intensely loyal to Mexico. New-comers from the States about this time were massacred, and the American troops, who appeared soon afterwards, as a punishment, laid the town of Mora in ashes. After the annexation these people were as loyal to the

United States as they had been to Mexico, and many of them fought in the Federal ranks during the Civil War. In 1880 the county of Mora was created out of part of the county of Taos. It had seven precincts then, one of the precincts, No. 4, Rayado, later being erected into the counties of Colfax and Union. Being off the line of railroad in greater part, many primitive ways still prevail side by side with advanced civilization, adding not a little to the picturesqueness and charms of the section.

SETTLEMENTS.

Wagon Mound and Mora are the principal towns in Mora county and are treated under the head of "Cities and towns of New Mexico."

Watrous, on the San Miguel county line, is next in importance as a shipping point, being the second largest settlement on the Santa Fe railway in the county. Alfalfa and fruit are raised to a large extent around Watrous. There are two large stores, a blacksmith shop, two churches, and a schoolhouse. One and a half miles from Watrous the Santa Fe railway is operating a stone quarry which at times employs from 300 to 400 men, supplying ballast for the railway track. Two train loads of stone are shipped daily. Population, 350.

Cleveland, better known as San Antonio, lies three miles west of Mora, in the Mora valley. Two stores, a sawmill, and postoffice are here. Population, 600.

Agua Negra is four miles west of Mora, also in the Mora valley. It has a postoffice, one store, a Protestant church, a mission school, and a sawmill. At this point the main road to Mora starts. Population, 500.

Rito de la Agua Negra is fifteen miles west of Mora and is the center of the best oats and potato producing valley in the county. It has two stores, a Protestant church, a Catholic church, and Protestant mission school. Population, 600.

Cebolla lies in a rich valley divided from the Mora valley by a mountain range. A large reservoir supplies irrigation water to the many fertile farms, wheat, hay, and oats being the principal products. Population, 400.

La Cueva is situated five miles east of Mora and is supplied with water from the Mora river. It is the headquarters of the La Cueva Ranch Company. A Catholic and a Protestant church and a Protestant mission school are maintained. There are also two blacksmith shops at the place. Population, 500.

Golondrina lies thirteen miles east of Mora and fifteen miles west of Watrous. The surrounding valley is watered by the Mora and the Cebolla. Farming and stock raising are the principal industries. Alfalfa and other hay, all kinds of cereals, legumes, and fruits are the principal products. The settlement has one store and a postoffice. Population, 250.

Cherry Valley is fifteen miles east of Watrous, and farming is pursued here in accordance with the most modern methods. The valley is watered from the Mora river, ditches being taken out on both sides of the river and watering thousands of acres. Alfalfa, corn, oats, and all kinds of fruits are raised. Vegetables attain an immense size. Hundreds of cattle, fat and sleek, roam on the adjoining mesas, while sheep graze peacefully by the thousands in this section. Population, 150.

Ocate is twenty-five miles west of Wagon Mound, near the dividing line between Mora and Colfax counties. There are 1,200 settlers in this fertile valley. Ocate has five general stores, each carrying a stock that would do credit to a city store. There are two churches, four schoolhouses, and several blacksmith shops. The town is most beautifully situated, being surrounded by high well-timbered mountains. The Ocate Valley is dotted with beautiful meadows, and about 5,000 tons of hay are harvested annually. The Ocate Creek is the dividing line between the Mora grant and the public domain. Many thousands of cattle, sheep, and horses can be seen grazing around Ocate, making a picture of peace and plenty. The valley was settled fifty years ago, every foot of land being disputed with hostile Indians, and today a certain part of the valley is known as Corral de los Apaches. The valley is exceptionally well watered, the Ocate Creek being formed by several sparkling mountain streams which comes down picturesque canons.

Fort Union lies eight miles north of Watrous. It has a romantic history. The caravans on the Santa Fe trail, in the early fifties and sixties often made it a haven of refuge. A stage carried the mail from and to Kansas City once every two or three months, and later

on monthly. Freight wagons and the prairie schooners made the trip in six months, and some took a whole year to make a return trip. The place was to the traveler an oasis and a bulwark against the marauding Indians. The old fort is 6,700 feet above sea level and situated in a valley twenty-five miles long and five miles wide. The Turkey Mountains lies to the east, while to the west rise the majestic slopes of the Rock mountains. The fort was abandoned in 1891. An extinct crater lies between it and Ocate, and for many miles around lava is piled up.

Guadalupita is situated twelve miles north of Mora in a beautiful valley surrounded by high mountains. The valley round about is well watered by several small streams, the chief of which is the Coyote, which gets its flow from the Black Lakes, in Colfax county. There is a sawmill, general store, a church, and a school in the settlement, which also has a postoffice. Hay, grain, potatoes and legumes are raised in large quantities, but the chief industry is stock raising. Many thousand sheep graze in the hills, and on the mountains browse many herds of cattle. Grass comes very early in the spring, and therefore cattle do exceptionally well. The winters are mild. The road to the Black Lakes, Cimarron, Elizabethtown, and Taos passes through Guadalupita, crossing the Coyote twenty-three times in the canon. Many a fishing party finds its way to this canyon or to the Black Lakes, where trout fishing, as well as hunting, yields excellent sport. Population, 250.

Turquillo is six miles north of Guadalupita. There are two sawmills in the valley, with an almost inexhaustible supply of timber to draw on. Hay, grain, and the legumes are the principal crops. Potatoes, however, are grown to an immense size. A number of promising mineral prospects are in the near-by mountains, but not developed to any extent. Population, 350.

Coyote is seven miles northeast of Mora. It is in a narrow valley about a mile wide, with high mountains and bluffs on all sides. Stock raising and agriculture are the main industries. A general store and a postoffice are found here. There are several fine orchards in the valley. A concentrator situated there is idle at present, although considerable work is being done on the fine mineral prospects in the vicinity. Copper is the principal ore, some of it assaying as high as 85 per cent, besides carrying gold, silver, and lead. Population, 200.

Llano del Coyote is two miles east of Coyote. Its resources are chiefly stock raising and farming. It has two stores, one church, a school, and a blacksmith shop. It is situated in an open valley, watered by the Coyote. Population, 300.

MORA COUNTY'S FUTURE.

Now is the time to settle in Mora county. The building of branch railroads into the county will greatly increase land values and will bring many opportunities for the establishment of new industries, the development of latent resources, the building of new towns and the growth of the older settlements. With its ideal climate, its abundance of water, its undeveloped resources, Mora county promises in the near future to become one of the most densely populated and richest sections of the great Southwest.

DIRECTORY

CHURCHES.

CATHOLIC CHURCH — Rev. Father Ant. Cellier, pastor. Services held monthly. Notices of date of service will be posted a week in advance. Notify the pastor of sick calls.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL — Rev. Grimmel, pastor. Services held in school house first Sunday in every month. Sunday school every Sunday at 2:00 p. m.

CLUBS.

ROY COMMERCIAL CLUB — Meetings held on first and third Tuesdays every month in Club Hall. Officers: F. A. Roy, president; Austin Harman, vice president; Jacob Floersheim, secretary; L. E. Aldridge, treasurer. Executive Committee: Frank A. Roy, Austin Harman, Jacob Floersheim, L. E. Aldridge and F. S. Brown.

PRIMROSE PROGRESSIVE CIRCLE — Meetings held every Saturday afternoon. Mrs. W. H. Wilcox, president; Mrs. F. B. Strong, vice president; Mrs. F. A. Roy, secretary; Mrs. F. S. Brown, treasurer. Trustees: Mrs. F. A. Roy, Mrs. W. H. Wilcox, Mrs. F. B. Evans.

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